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Sens. Allen and Stamas reschedule second annual 'Snowmobile the North Tour'

LANSING – The second annual "Snowmobile the North Tour" is back on track thanks to more seasonal temperatures and recent snowfall accumulation, announced state Sens. Jason Allen and Tony Stamas.

Leaders from around the state plan to explore northern Michigan via snowmobiles later this month, witnessing firsthand the economic impact created by winter tourism. Allen and Stamas will spearhead the tour.

"I was dismayed when the recent warm weather snap delayed our trip, but I'm pleased to announce that the trip is back on," said Allen, R-Traverse City. "I had a great time on the snowmobile tour last year. Snowmobiling is one of the hallmarks of winter; I look forward to joining my fellow legislators to experience the winter wonderland of northern Michigan."

Beginning and ending in Gaylord, the tour kicks off Friday, Jan. 28, Allen and Stamas will hit the trail on Saturday, and wrap up Monday, Jan. 31. Throughout the weekend, the pair along with fellow legislators will visit a number of area towns, including: Lewiston, Atlanta, Alpena, Millersburg, Onaway, Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, Alba, Levering, Alanson and Indian River before returning to Gaylord.

Slated to join Allen and Stamas will be Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche, Reps. Tom Casperson, Kevin Elsenheimer, Tim Moore, Goeff Hansen and John Pastor, former Speaker of the House Rick Johnson, and Michigan Snowmobile Association President Rick Brown.

"I am really looking forward to going on the snowmobile tour and seeing the significant economic impact winter tourism has on northern Michigan," said Stamas, R-Midland. "Michigan is beautiful during all four seasons, but winter is a time for snowmobile enthusiasts to enjoy what Michigan has to offer."

Michigan has more than 6,000 miles of groomed trails offering exciting terrain of forest and field to both residents and visitors. With almost 400,000 registered snowmobiles, contributing over \$1 billion to the state economy.

Snowmobile Safety Week, recognized this week, is intended to remind snowmobile enthusiasts how important it is to recognize that safe and responsible driving is essential for everyone on a sled.